

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 210908

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DRAFTED BY P:JJSISCO:MTB

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

S/S :CABORG

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TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 210908

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, US

SUBJECT: SYRIA PROTESTS NEWSWEEK STATEMENT.

REF: DAMASCUS 3454

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

1. PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY
TO PRESIDENT ASAD.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM HAS CALLED TO OUR ATTENTION A
NEWSWEEK ARTICLE ON SEPTEMBER 8 ATTRIBUTING TO SECRETARY
KISSINGER A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT HE QTE TOLD
JERUSALEM NEGOTIATING TEAM THAT SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ
ASAD HAD DECLARED HE WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET RABIN FACE-
TO-FACE FOR TALKS ON A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT IF ISRAEL

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AGREED TO RETURN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS TO SYRIA. UNQTE.

SECRETARY WISHES PRESIDENT TO KNOW THAT AT NO TIME HAS ANY SUCH STATEMENT BEEN MADE BY HIM TO NEWSWEEK OR ANY OTHER MEDIA. SECRETARY KISSINGER KNOWS THAT NO SUCH STATEMENT HAS EVER BEEN MADE BY PRESIDENT ASAD TO THE SECRETARY. SECRETARY WISHES PRESIDENT TO KNOW WE WILL TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO HAVE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ISSUE

CATEGORICAL DENIAL AT FRIDAY'S PRESS BRIEFING. THE SECRETARY IS CONFIDENT THAT PRESIDENT ASAD WILL RECOGNIZE ABOVE STATEMENT FOR WHAT IT IS--TOTALLY FALSE PROPAGANDA INTENDED TO SOW SEEDS OF DISCORD BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE U.S.

3. SECRETARY WISHES PRESIDENT ASAD ALSO TO KNOW THAT HE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH HIM ON TWO OCCASIONS DURING HIS CURRENT MIDDLE EASTERN TRIP. WE DO NOT AND HAVE NEVER CONCEIVED OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL AS AN END IN ITSELF. IN THE COURSE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS, WE MADE CLEAR TO THEM, AS THE SECRETARY DID TO PRESIDENT ASAD THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO HELP BRING ABOUT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. SECRETARY WISHES TO REAFFIRM THAT THIS CONTINUES TO BE OUR POSITION, AND WE REMAIN READY TO ASSIST THE PARTIES IF THIS IS THEIR DESIRE. KISSINGER

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE PLANS, CAT-B, CHEROKEE 09/4/75, CHEROKEE 9/4/75
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE210908
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JJSISCO:MTB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850004-0772, N750004-0152
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750979/aaaacrxe.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 DAMASCUS 3454
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIA PROTESTS NEWSWEEK STATEMENT.
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, SY, US, (ASAD, HAFIZ), (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: DAMASCUS AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006